



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 20, 2007

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department
Community Services, Police Department

SUBJECT: Update On Youth Violence Issues And Prevention Programs
Implemented By Parks And Recreation And Police Departments

RECOMMENDATION: That Council hear a presentation from Parks and Recreation, and Police Department staff on the status of youth violence and youth programs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City Council and the greater Santa Barbara community have been coming together to discuss youth violence following several unfortunate incidents involving young people in gang-type activities. In June 2007, Council provided \$274,700 in additional FY 2008 funds to the Parks and Recreation and Police Departments to enhance programs and services which had been identified as priorities by the community. This report begins with a brief overview from the Police Department on recent youth violence trends in Santa Barbara, enforcement and prevention programs. It is followed by an update from the Police and Parks and Recreation Departments on community outreach and recreation programs related to youth at risk.

DISCUSSION:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Status of Youth Violence

Within the borders of Santa Barbara City are 768 identified gang members and associate members. The members are organized into 11 separate gangs. However, the primary distinction between rival gangs is based on geographical lines; that is, Eastside and Westside.

Since the March 14th gang murder of Angel Linares, our community has experienced the following gang related crime: 1 homicide, 25 serious assaults involving weapons, 8 street robberies, plus an assortment of reported vandalism, disturbances, and witness intimidation.

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

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The Police Department has dedicated 12 police officer positions to work full-time with gang and youth problems. This includes 2 sergeants and 10 officers divided into 5 disciplines, including street enforcement, investigative follow-up, D.A.R.E., School Resource Officers, and Police Activities League. In addition, officers assigned as patrol officers frequently respond to youth and gang problems. In short, the Police Department allocates more police resources for youth and gang problems than any other specific public safety concern.

The Police Department uses 2 primary methods to reduce the impact of gang and youth crime:

Enforcement:

- Investigating gang related crimes; arresting criminal offenders and preparing cases for criminal prosecution; directed patrols; gang sweeps; gang association warrants; and extra deployment during major community events such as Fiesta. This is accomplished in partnership with Probation, the District Attorney's office, the Courts, and allied law enforcement agencies.
- Neighborhood Bicycle Patrol was inaugurated in May 2007 to bring extra enforcement efforts to neighborhoods negatively impacted by gang activity. Since this time, the Police Department has deployed over 1,800 hours of bicycle enforcement resulting in more than 30 felony arrests, 61 misdemeanor arrests, 329 citations, and hundreds of field contacts and interviews of known gang members.
- Serious Habitual Offender Program (SHO) was reconstituted to help focus precious juvenile justice resources on the small number of juvenile offenders who are responsible for a disproportional high volume of serious and violent crime. The program is a collaborative effort among the Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, School District, and Juvenile Courts. The SHO Program creates facilitated lines of communication between SHO agencies and community based organizations to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions and also provides opportunities for intervention and rehabilitation.

Intervention/Prevention:

- D.A.R.E., School Resource Officers, and PAL: These officers along with our SET Team and Youth Services Detectives, aside from their regular duties, conduct more than 60 community presentations throughout the year with school officials, parents, and young people. Our officers and staff serve on community boards involving a variety of youth services including: Fighting Back, CADA, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, faith based organizations, Casa Pacifica, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and more. Of particular note is our close involvement in many boards, committees, and programs administered by local schools.

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The present gang issue is not unique or new to Santa Barbara. The City experienced a sharp increase in gang related crime between 1992 and 1996, starting with a gang related homicide on the first night of Fiesta in 1992. Although gangs are a significant public safety concern, the Police Department, in collaboration with other criminal justice agencies, schools, community based organizations, and other community members, has a long tradition of keeping gang violence below that of many other communities. The Police Department believes that the best solutions for gang violence will be community based.

Police Activities League

The Santa Barbara Police Activities League (PAL) was established as a non-profit in 1999 and is a citywide program which provides recreational opportunities for at-risk, low income, youth. PAL strives to provide quality educational, cultural, and athletic programming for the youth of Santa Barbara and build positive relationships between the Police Department and all members of the community.

PAL has served over 1,300 children this past year, and that number continues to grow exponentially as we expand our services. The Campership Alliance, a city-wide PAL program, was established in 2001 to organize a collaborative effort of over 35 local summer camps to provide over 400 scholarships to children that lacked the financial resources to attend. This year PAL's Campership Alliance program was awarded the 2007 Leadership in Action Award for Community Collaboration by the Non-profit Support Center. In addition to free recreational programming, PAL is able to reach our target population by providing free transportation to and from our programs and events.

Currently PAL is working with the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation and the Santa Barbara School Districts to provide afterschool Hip-Hop, Digital Editing, and Art classes to over 120 kids spanning 5 Title One Elementary Schools in Santa Barbara. PAL has also formed a collaborative with the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at UCSB and the School District to provide a comprehensive cutting edge tutoring program involving pre-professional education students at UCSB.

The Youth Leadership Council is composed of teens that have demonstrated an interest in developing leadership skills and meets once a week to plan community service projects, receive job training and help with resumes, prepare for college, and attend leadership conferences throughout the year. PAL is currently partnered with the Santa Barbara Academy of Martial Arts to provide afterschool martial arts classes which includes uniforms and entrance into local competitions and exhibitions. PAL continues to provide and expand our youth club basketball program which includes both boys and girls teams ranging from 2nd grade to High school. The most recent addition to the PAL sports has been the highly anticipated club soccer program started in spring of 2007. The Junior High and High school club soccer teams have been traveling all over the state including a tournament in Fresno, Los Angeles, and weekly league games in Oxnard.

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In addition to after school and summer programs, PAL provides numerous community events and excursions. Our trademark event has been our annual "PAL Christmas Dinner" in which members of the community join us in giving over 60 needy families (over 200 guests) a Christmas Dinner and presents for their children. PAL was also able expand our annual "Cops and Kids Camp" to 2 camps held at El Capitan State Beach in which over 50 disadvantaged youth enjoyed activities along side officers and PAL staff such as horseback riding, kayaking, high ropes courses, night hikes, and astronomy presentations.

PAL is currently working towards expanding programming to the campuses of La Colina and Goleta Valley Junior Highs through a partnership with Parks and Recreation to provide Hip Hop and Martial Arts. PAL is also currently working on a partnership with Pony League Baseball to sponsor a team for the upcoming season beginning in spring 2008.

PAL programs and excursions are designed to take at risk youth out of their element and provide for them a safe place to have fun and be a kid. We achieve that by providing unique, professional, well-run programs coupled with a strong police presence.

Highlights:

- After School and Summer Programming – with more than 1,300 low-income youth in Hip Hop Dance, Martial Arts, Club Basketball, Club Soccer, Youth Leadership, Homework Tutoring, and Art Classes provided by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.
- The Campership Alliance Program – provides more than 450 summer camp scholarships for verified low-income families including transportation to and from the various camps.
- A Computer Learning Lab – serves more than 130 youth per week in tutoring, homework, and digital editing classes.

The following programs are representative of the total number of children participating in after school programs and summer camperships offered through PAL. The numbers do not represent the children who will participate from Goleta Valley Junior High through the new partnership with Parks & Recreation.

Basketball (Senior, Junior, and Elementary Schools)	96
Hip Hop (Junior High)	78
Martial Arts	35
Campership Alliance	451
YLC	28
Soccer (Senior and Junior High)	53
PAL A-OK Collaborative (Hip Hop, Digital Editing, Art Classes)	352
PAL Tech	12
Excursions, Trips, and Day Events	<u>195</u>
TOTAL:	1,300

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation programs provide opportunities to live healthy enriching lifestyles, create a sense community, and combat undesirable behaviors of our youth. The Department along with City Leaders recognizes that it is vital for a family's recreational needs to be met because strong families create strong communities. Much of the programming provided by the Parks and Recreation Department focuses on the prevention of inappropriate youth behaviors by engaging youth in safe, structured, and fun recreational and leadership programs.

The Parks and Recreation 2007 Annual Participation Report shows that over 56,762 "units of service" were provided to youth in recreation programs last year. This includes one time/drop-in activities as well as registration for camps, classes, and afterschool programs. It is important to note that 71% of this participation was in free programs – activities subsidized 100% by the General Fund.

The addition of \$174,000 in General Fund support designated by City Council in Fiscal Year 2008 allowed the Department to immediately expand services focused on serving the neediest youth of our community.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Summer Drop-in Program – Additional funding provided to expand program

The Parks and Recreation Department has hosted a free summer drop-in program on Harding, McKinley, and Franklin Elementary School campuses for over 20 years. These 3 sites were selected since they are Title One schools (over 50% of the students receive free or reduced lunch) and located in some of the more densely populated neighborhoods. The sites provide a safe and welcoming summer haven full of activities for youth. A free lunch is provided by the Community Action Commission. This year, additional funding provided expansion to a full-day program and the addition of a new site at Ortega Welcome House. With approval by school principals, programs were allowed to include 7th and 8th grade students who live in the immediate neighborhood.

This expansion of service increased participation by 30%, providing 437 children the opportunity to participate in a supervised recreational program in their immediate neighborhood.

Community Handball Clinic and League – Additional funding provided to expand program

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This free handball clinic met at Franklin Elementary School and the Westside Boys and Girls Club during summer afternoons for youth ages 8-20. Program staff were trained and program implemented to the US Handball Association (USHA) standard. Ice cream socials were held to introduce this new program to the neighborhoods. The summer ended with a week long league, and players traveling to the YMCA for final rounds of play. USHA provided funding for equipment and training, and an anonymous donor provided prize money for the players.

A total of 160 youth participated in the program over the summer; 93 at Franklin, and 67 at the Westside Boys and Girls Club. Approximately 16-18 youth continue to meet every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning at Franklin.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Elementary Afterschool Programs – RAP and A-OK!

The Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP), offered at 5 schools, continues to grow in participation with 291 students enrolled to date, 21% above this time last year. This is the 3rd year that participation has increased significantly over the previous year demonstrating the success of the revitalized program. Afterschool-Opportunities for Kids! (A-OK!), the State grant funded program, continues to serve a maximum of 520 students at 5 Title One schools.

Elementary Afterschool Sports Program – Additional funding provided to expand program

Additional funding provided for an expansion of the Afterschool Sports Program offered at 10 elementary schools, and elimination of activity fees to encourage more participation. The goal of the afterschool sports program includes encouraging sportsmanship and participation in physical activity. Programs are offered to all skill levels and instruction is coordinated to allow all players to develop the basic skills. Coaches and officials provide leadership and positive role-modeling for the youth while providing a safe, fun and engaging sports program.

A total of 342 youth are currently participating in the Flag Football league this fall compared to 235 youth last year – a 45% increase.

Junior High Afterschool Program – Additional funding provided to expand program

Junior High Afterschool program operates at 4 Junior Highs; Goleta Valley, La Colina, La Cumbre and Santa Barbara. The program has been expanded to add Santa Barbara Charter School and Housing Authority flag football teams, as well as cheerleading at La Cumbre and Santa Barbara.

The proposal to extend local youth serving non-profits the opportunity to come onto campuses and offer programs as part of the Junior High Afterschool Program has been particularly challenging. The School District has been supportive of expanding access,

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and Staff has met with over 40 agencies. Although many expressed interest, timing or resources were not aligned at this time. PAL, Project Renaissance, Club West Swing Kids, Teen Programs, Creeks, and Library have confirmed their interest in participating in the expansion. Following School Board approval in December, these activities will be incorporated.

The program continues to struggle with participation. First quarter participation was 288 students, down 11% from this time last year. Though the District is supportive in growing the program, various school release times, staffing changes, and promotion continue to be challenges. District and City staff continue to work together to explore and implement solutions.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Summer Concerts Program - NEW

County Supervisor Salud Carbajal solicited \$15,000 in donations to fund a Teen Summer Concert program at the County Courthouse. Because of the City's reputation with providing youth driven programming and successful teen activities, he approached the Department about taking the lead in planning and coordinating the concerts. A collaboration was formed with City, County, and other youth-serving agencies, with staff and youth members. Teens provided input on band selection, dates, times, and other concert aspects. Two concerts took place over the summer at the Courthouse. Additional concerts will take place with remaining funds.

Summer Late Nights - Teen Programs

Summer Late Nights began 10 years ago as a program to provide late evening and weekend activities for teens, and grew into a full summer program taking place days, evenings, and weekends. This year, new excursion attractions, such as the Aquarium of the Pacific were added in addition to summer favorites like Six Flags and Disneyland. Programming was expanded through new collaborations with youth agencies, such as the Nature History Museum.

In all, 346 teens participated in Summer Late Nights activities.

Twelve35 Teen Center

The Teen Center offered extended hours during the summer, 12:35 – 9:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, in addition to regular Saturday hours. New activities included video game tournaments and Texas Hold'em Night. The center received visitors from all areas of the City and experienced very little, if any, problems among the teens while visiting the Twelve35. A Youth Apprentice position was assigned to work at the Teen Center. He was trained in all the facets of the teen center operation and easily gained the respect and friendship of the teen program participants.

During summer, 49 new members joined the Teen Center, and there were 1,591 individual visits. Average daily attendance was 30 teens per day during this period, with 64% of the participants being male.

Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program (ADAP) “Youth Collaborations – Community Solutions” Leadership Summit

The ADAP Teen Coalition partnered with Friday Night Live and Future Leaders of America on September 29th to sponsor the 3rd Annual Youth Leadership Summit. The event featured workshops on Public Speaking, Media Advocacy, Environmental Prevention, and Youth Violence Solutions. The Youth Violence Solutions workshop was attended by 90% of the students at the summit, and its findings have been forwarded to the Chief of Police’s Commission on Youth Violence.

100 teens participated in the Leadership Summit.

COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMS

Lower Westside Center – Additional funding provided to increase position

The Lower Westside Center Community Services Coordinator position was increased from 50% to 75% effective July 1st. This change provided greater staff support to the Lower Westside neighborhood, specifically with the Youth Apprentice Program, outreach efforts, and programming.

Lower Westside Center Children’s Summer Program

This summer program operated Monday thru Friday from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Children, 6 to 12 years old, participated in various structured activities that included arts and crafts, sports, games, and field trips. The program was staffed with volunteers and assigned youth from the Department’s Job Apprenticeship program. Materials and supplies were obtained through community donations. Free lunch was provided by the Community Action Commission. Twenty-seven children participated in the program on a regular basis.

Franklin Center Programs - New

- Youth Alliance for the Arts - formed in September 2007 to channel the artistic talent of high risk youth. Nine participants have been meeting to plan art projects including murals and mural restorations, art exhibits, graffiti abatement, and neighborhood clean-ups. The project is also working on the development of a Youth Art Magazine.
- Tutoring Program – piloted in the fall in collaboration with UCSB/Givertz Graduate School of Education. UCSB students are tutoring students from Santa Barbara Junior High School afternoons at the Franklin Center.
- Tardeadas – the Franklin Center Advisory Committee and staff have been holding monthly neighborhood socials, or Tardeadas, to bring the community together for social interaction. Specifically targeting areas with “loitering” youth, activities are designed to establish better lines of communication and understanding between youth and adults in a supportive environment. Hosted in

the evening and on weekends, snacks and community services information are provided in a casual atmosphere.

As of November, a total of 5 Tardeadas have taken place in different parts of the eastside neighborhood including the Franklin Center, Eastside Library, Pennywise Market, and Eastside Park. Approximately 20-30 youth and adults have participated at each event.

Franklin Center Neighborhood Outreach

The Department continued to outreach to neighborhoods, parents, and youth over the summer months. A joint effort by staff and the Franklin Center Advisory Committee, over 230 neighborhood residents were surveyed on how they felt the City and Franklin Center could best assist them in addressing the escalating use of drugs in the neighborhood and the increased youth violence. The majority of parents expressed the need for free recreational programs and activities, youth jobs, more Police patrols, and parenting classes. Approximately 90% of residents also recommended the use of cameras at the Eastside Library, Franklin Neighborhood Center, Ortega Park, and Eastside Park. Staff will be bringing this proposal to the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force for consideration.

Franklin Center Youth Outreach Forums - New

Two community youth forums were held at the Franklin Center to discuss how the City and community could best assist them in promoting a safer neighborhood. The youth's overwhelming response was the need for job training programs and employment opportunities, access to free or affordable recreational activities for older youth, and a neighborhood youth center for older youth/young adults, possibly located at the Franklin Neighborhood Center.

The forums were well attended, with 73 youth taking part in these discussions.

YOUTH JOBS PROGRAMS

Job Apprentices Program – Additional funding provided to expand program

Additional funding provided expansion of the Job Apprentices Program within the Parks and Recreation Department. The Department identified 37 hourly job opportunities and made the commitment to offer those positions to Youth Apprentices. Two Program Coordinators were hired in early July and began recruitment for these openings. Presentations were held at El Puente Continuation School, Franklin Neighborhood Center, Westside Boys & Girls Club, Lower Westside Community Center, and at Bohnett, Ortega, and Eastside Parks. Additionally, staff participated in 3 community forums where information on job opportunities was provided to parents.

Job Apprentices Program participants were assigned to jobs with Creeks, Parks, Aquatics, Youth Activities, and Community Services. In addition to employment training, all participants took part in skill building workshops at the Westside Community Center.

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Youth Apprentices were recognized at a special meeting of the 3 Community Center Advisory Committees and the October Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

During July and August, staff conducted outreach services to approximately 188 youth ages 14 - 21 years old. Twenty-one youth from both the Eastside and Westside neighborhoods were hired through the Parks and Recreation Job Apprenticeship Program to work in summer programs. The program will continue over the school year. Staff placed an additional 11 youth in temporary jobs with private businesses. Overall, 48 youth were assisted with job placement, including resume writing, filling out applications, job search, and job interview preparation.

\$863,000 Workforce Investment Act Grant - NEW

On September 19, 2007, the City and its partners held a press conference to announce an \$863,000 Workforce Investment Act Grant award from the Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board. SER/Jobs for Progress, the lead agency, immediately set out to establish offices and hire staff. Staff from Community Services and Housing Authority has been working closely with SER/Jobs for Progress to implement the program as quickly as possible. Offices are being established in the Franklin and Westside Community Centers as well as Housing Authority facilities, to better outreach to those communities. Within the next few weeks staff will be coordinating several informational outreach meetings with SER, specifically for local businesses, City departments, and community organizations to attract potential employers and youth to participate with program.

The 3-year renewable grant will fund job training and placement for over 200 youth ages 14 - 21, both in school and out of school.

PREPARED BY: Terry Brown, Youth Activities Supervisor
Susan Young, Teen Programs Supervisor
Antonio Velasquez, Community Services Supervisor
Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager
Judith Cook, Recreation Programs Manager
Ed Szeyller, Police Captain, Community Services

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director
Camerino Sanchez, Police Chief

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office